

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 19, 21-35, 39-55, and 57-65 are pending in this application.

Claims 4-5, 16-18, 20, 36-38, and 56 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 59-61 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

Claims 1 and 39 have been amended to correct grammatical errors as noted by the Examiner. Claims 52 and 60 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claim 57 has not been amended as requested by the Examiner because proper antecedent basis for “the user interface” is found in the fourth line of claim 52 from which claim 57 depends.

Claims 1, 10, 31, and 52 have been amended to clarify that the central server system may be used to configure the player-operated gaming machines in the land-based casino and the remote player-operated computing device for conducting the wagering games. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the applications in general and at least in paragraphs 0029-0030 of the specification.

No new matter was added as a result of the above amendments.

Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 21-23, 25-26, 32-35, 40, 42-43, 45-46, 51, 53-55, 58, and 62-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by PCT Published Application No. WO0191866A1 (Harkham).

Claims 19, 24, 27-31, 39, 41, 44, 47-50, and 52, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harkham in view of US Published Application No. US20020087876A1 (Larose).

Claim 57 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to provide antecedent basis for “the user interface.”

To the extent the rejections may be considered to apply to the claims as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the Independent Claims

Independent claim 1 (as amended) is directed a method of using a casino-based, player-operated gaming machine. The method comprises, among other things, **configuring the gaming machine from a central server system for conducting a wagering game.**

Independent claim 10 (as amended) is directed to a method of integrating casino gaming with non-casino interactive gaming. The method comprises, among other things, **configuring a player-operated gaming machine and a player-operated computing device from a central server system for conducting wagering games.**

Independent claim 31 (as amended) is directed to a web-based system for integrating casino gaming with non-casino interactive gaming. The system comprises, among other things, **a central server system adapted to configure player-operated gaming machines and a player-operated computing device for conducting wagering games.**

Independent claim 52 (as amended) is directed to a casino-based gaming machine located in a land-based casino. The gaming machine is, among other things, **adapted to be configured from a central server system for conducting a wagering game.**

An advantage of the claimed invention is that the gaming machines and/or the remote computing devices may be configured from a central location to conduct various wagering games. This allows the wagering games to be conducted at the central server level, at a hybrid server/machine or server/device level, or at the gaming machine level (although not solely at the remote computing device level). *See, e.g., paragraphs 0029-0030.*

Arguments in Support of the Claims

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the thorough evaluation of the application and the detailed analysis of the claims and the prior art references. However, in view of the above amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that that neither Harkham nor Larose (nor any other art of record), taken individually or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed invention.

Harkham discloses real-time provision of casino games to remotely located players through a central gaming server. The remotely located players access the central gaming server through remote client devices (e.g., personal computers, network appliances, mobile phones, etc.) to play the casino games. *See, e.g., page 4, lines 12-24.* However, the primary function of the central gaming server is simply to transfer data to/from the casino games from/to the remotely located players. Nowhere does Harkham teach or suggest that either the casino games or the remote client devices may be configured from the central gaming server for conducting wagering games. Indeed, many of the wagering games in Harkham are table games that are inherently incapable of being configured from the central server system. Instead, the main focus of Harkham appears to be ensuring the realness or realism of the online wagering games. Applicant's position is supported by the use in Harkham of cameras and microphones to provide a live video of the wagering games. *See, e.g., page 11, lines 31-33.*

Harkham does disclose remotely accessing slot machines, both real and virtual, through the central gaming server and also using the central gaming server to provide game play statistics associated with the slot machines. *See, e.g., page 14, lines 3-15.* Applicant respectfully notes, however, that a virtual slot machine is neither a player-operated gaming machine nor a player-operated computing device, as recited in the independent claims. In any event, the mere provision of game play statistics does not configure the real or virtual slot machines for conducting the wagering games. Harkham is simply silent regarding configuring the slot machines (or client devices) from the central gaming server for conducting wagering games.

As for Larose, it is difficult to see how this reference relates to wagering games at all, much less derive motivation to combine it with Harkham. Larose merely discloses a remote software distribution process involving multiple versions of the software. In Larose, an initial software version with limited functionality is installed to determine whether security on a target platform is sufficient. If yes, a second software version with fuller functionality is installed on the target platform. *See, e.g., Abstract.* However, nowhere does Larose teach or suggest configuring gaming machines and/or remote computing devices from a central gaming server for conducting wagering games. Accordingly, even assuming there is motivation to combine (which there is not), the resulting combination would not produce the claimed invention.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections against independent claims 1, 10, 31, and 52.

In addition, nowhere does Harkham or Larose teach or suggest executing game software at the central server system, as recited in dependent claims 6, 40, 41, and 55. The Examiner seems to assume on page 5, item 16, of the Office Action that Harkham's virtual slot machine is executed on the central gaming server. However, nowhere does Harkham actually teach or suggest that this is the case. On the contrary, Harkham clearly discloses on page 4, lines 25-26, and FIG. 1 that the virtual casino, hence the virtual slot machine, is a separate unit from the central gaming server.

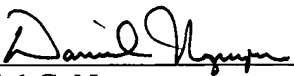
Moreover, all of the dependent claims depend from independent claims 1, 10, 31, and 52, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the dependent claims is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance. If there are further questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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